

Appl. No. 09/755,313
Amdt. dated Jan. 16, 2004
Response to Office action f Oct. 16, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 13 (original): A universal connecting device comprises:
a connector housing adapted for mating with a connector having a designated mode of operation associated with the connector; and
a sensor, operably mounted to said connector housing, for identifying the mode of operation associated with a connector mated to said connector housing, wherein said sensor provides a signal indicative of said mode of operation.

Claim 14 (original): A universal connecting device according to claim 13, wherein said device further comprises an indicator operably attached to said connector for designating a predetermined mode of operation associated with said connector.

Claim 15 (original): A universal connecting device according to claim 14, wherein said sensor is a Hall Effect sensor.

Claim 16 (original): A universal connecting device according to claim 15, wherein said indicator comprises at least one magnet configured to designate the mode of operation associated with said connector, and wherein said sensor provides a signal indicative of the mode of operation designated by said indicator.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A universal connecting device according to claim ~~13-14~~ wherein said device further comprises an optical signal generator for generating an optical signal, wherein said indicator defines a level of reflectivity that corresponds to a predetermined mode of operation, and wherein said indicator partially reflects the optical signal generated by said optical signal generator to indicate the predetermined mode of operation associated with said ~~sleeve connector~~.

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Claim 18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (currently amended): A universal connecting device according to claim ~~13-14~~ further comprising at least one pressure device for generating a pressure, wherein said indicator defines a blocking device that blocks the release of pressure from said pressure device to indicate a first mode of operation, and wherein the sensor identifies the mode indicated by said indicator by sensing the pressure blocked by said indicator.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of selecting an operation mode from a plurality of operation modes of a processing device based on identifying a characteristic of a connector connected thereto, wherein said method includes the steps of:

 mating said connector to said processing device;
 providing an indication from said connector, wherein said indication designates a predetermined mode of operation;
 sensing said indication from said ~~indicator of said connector~~; and
 configuring said process device to operate in the predetermined mode of operation designed by said connector.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A method according to claim 26 wherein said providing step provides a magnetic signal designating a predetermined mode of operation and wherein said sensing step comprises the step of sensing the a-magnetic signal provided in said providing step.

Claim 28 (original): A method according to claim 26 wherein said method further comprises the step of directing an optical signal to an indicator attached to said connector, wherein said providing step comprises the step of partially reflecting said optical signal, wherein said reflected signal represents a predetermined mode of operation for said process device, and wherein said sensing step comprises the step of sensing a reflected optical signal from said indicator.

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Claim 29 (original): A method according to claim 26, wherein said method further comprises the step of generating a pressure for applying to said connector, wherein said providing step comprises blocking the pressure, thereby indicating a first mode of operation, and wherein said sensing step comprises sensing the pressure blocked in said providing step to thereby determine the mode of operation indicated in said providing step.

Claim 30 (new): A connecting device to connect a control device to a peripheral device, the connecting device comprising:

an interface connector for the control device;

a complementary connector for a peripheral device adapted for mating with the interface connector;

wherein the complementary connector designates a predetermined mode of operation to operate the peripheral device; and

a sensor associated with the interface connector operable to identify and provide a signal indicative of the predetermined mode of operation designated by the complementary connector;

wherein the sensor enables configuration of the control device to operate the peripheral device according to the predetermined mode of operation designated by the connector.

Claim 31 (new): A connecting device according to claim 30, further comprising an indicator operably attached to the complementary connector, wherein the indicator designates the predetermined mode of operation to operate the peripheral device.

Claim 32 (new): A connecting device according to claim 31, wherein said sensor is a Hall Effect sensor.

Claim 33 (new): A connecting device according to claim 32, wherein said indicator comprises at least one magnet configured to designate the mode of operation associated with said complementary connector, and wherein said sensor provides a signal indicative of the mode of operation designated by said indicator.

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Claim 34 (new): A connecting device according to claim 31, further comprising an optical signal generator for generating an optical signal, wherein said indicator defines a level of reflectivity that corresponds to the predetermined mode of operation, and wherein said indicator partially reflects the optical signal generated by said optical signal generator to indicate the predetermined mode of operation associated with said connector.

Claim 35 (new): A connecting device according to claim 31 further comprising at least one pressure device for generating a pressure, wherein said indicator defines a blocking device that blocks the release of pressure from said pressure device to indicate a first mode of operation, and wherein the sensor identifies the mode indicated by said indicator by sensing the pressure blocked by said indicator.